



THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Construction niche revived because of "BoAruba" government projects



A year and a half ago the construction niche on Aruba was practically at a standstill.

Today there is vibrancy in the construction world here, there is an abundance of work and construction companies are actually faced with

the lack of sufficient workers. This has come about as a result of the many projects initiated by the government. Many of these projects are multimillion florin projects which also have a major impact on the overall economy

of the island.

Yesterday, another such program was initiated with the signing of the financial agreement between the government, FDA, Bohama NV and Contractor Geerman Construction.

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Lion Fish Control Championship becoming exciting



Lionfish in our sea waters is increasing rapidly and there is a strong competition ongoing to help eliminate this fish from our waters.

The last competition in the National Plan to Control Lionfish brought about many changes and surprises. There is currently a fierce competition between those intent on capturing the most lionfish possible. The lider in the competition is Canicio van der Biezen with almost 100 – 88 Lionfish captured thus far. Norman Arends surprised everyone with his total of almost 93 points. Next in line is Juan Tintin Giel who has eliminated 54 Lionfish for 60.90 points.

For every lionfish that a participant brings back they receive a sticker for which they receive a point plus a fraction based on the size of the fish. These points will continue to accumulate until in December when they will decide who becomes the king or queen of the Aruba Lionfish. All of this is in an effort to make Arubans aware of the danger of this creature and the problem it is creating in our waters.

Standings of the Teams:

The leading team with the highest points thus far is Life-guards of Aruba with 141 Lionfish registered in their name for a total of 160.57 points. In



second place is Aruba Under Water Hunters team who eliminated 92 Lionfish with a total of 102.98 points. Third place is the T&T team with a total of 60.90 points and 54 Lionfish captured.

Winners in this championship can earn prizes as individuals and as a group.

A Major Threat:

Aruba Marine Park Foundation is extremely pleased with this championship to combat this invasive species which is a major threat to our marine flora and fauna.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Kadhafi forces fight back, as reward offered for strongman

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Fighting raged Wednesday as Moamer Kadhafi troops fought back at his Tripoli compound a day after it was captured, while rebels offered a \$1.7 million reward for the elusive strongman, dead or alive.

As the United Nations called a meeting to discuss the unlocking by backers of the insurgency of billions of dollars of Libyan assets, donor countries were meeting in Qatar.

Meanwhile, Washington said Libya's stockpile of weapons of mass destruction had been secured and that it was confident the rebel National Transitional Council (NTC) could set up governing structures after overrunning Tripoli.

The rebels also made key diplomatic gains when two of Kadhafi's staunchest African allies -- Chad and Burkina Faso -- said they recognise the NTC as the sole representative

of the Libyan people.

During the afternoon, thick smoke hung over the Bab al-Aziziya complex, where rebels and Kadhafi forces were fighting with light arms, heavy machine guns, rocket propelled grenades and mortars, an AFP reporter said.

Fighting also spread to the nearby Abu Slim area, where loyalists were on the attack, a day after they fled as rebels overran the Bab al-Aziziya compound.

However, rebel commanders said they were determined to push the loyalist troops out of the area.

Many streets were deserted, with commanders saying dozens of pro-Kadhafi snipers had taken up positions.

A rebel military spokesman speaking to Al-Jazeera television said "Libyan territory is 90 to 95

percent under the control of the rebellion."

Rebels said they had found no trace of Kadhafi when they swarmed through his compound on Tuesday, and the whereabouts of him and his family remains a mystery.

However, the former colonel broadcast a message early Wednesday on the website of a TV station headed by his son, Seif al-Islam.

Kadhafi said he had abandoned his compound in a "tactical withdrawal."

In a later audio message on Syria-based Arrai Oruba television, Kadhafi boasted that he had taken to the streets of Tripoli without being recognised.

NTC chief Mustafa Abdel Jalil also offered amnesty to "members of (Kadhafi's) close circle who kill him or capture him."

US wants UN to free \$1.5 billion of Libya aid

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United States called an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council on Wednesday to press for an easing of Libya sanctions so that it can send \$1.5 billion of humanitarian aid.

A senior US State Department official told reporters in Washington on condition of anonymity that "there is one country that has had a delay-

ing tactic every day for the last four days." The official added: "the Libyan people need their money."

Diplomats said South Africa wanted to wait until after an African Union summit on Thursday and Friday before taking decisions on measures to help Libya.

If South Africa maintains its opposition after the consultations on Wednesday, the

Chavez says Venezuela embassy sacked in Tripoli

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez charged Wednesday that the Venezuelan embassy in Tripoli was "assaulted and totally sacked," demanding that the ambassador and his staff be protected.

Chavez, a loyal ally of embattled Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi, made the remarks at a press conference as fighting raged in Tripoli between rebels and remnants of forces loyal to the regime.

"They have destroyed the country and it wasn't Kadhafi who destroyed it. That country has set on fire and it wasn't Kadhafi who set it on fire. It's the imperial madness."

Chavez has been an unyielding opponent of a NATO air campaign against Kadhafi and has extended his personal support to the Libyan leader on numerous occasions during the six-month-long uprising against him.

Four Italian journalists kidnapped in Libya: reports

ROME (AFP) - Fighters loyal to Moamer Kadhafi have kidnapped four Italian journalists travelling by car outside Tripoli, the Sky TG-24 television station and the ANSA news agency reported Wednesday.

day.

The group was taken while driving towards the capital from Zawiyah, a town 40 kilometres (25 miles) away, ANSA said, quoting Bruno Tucci, who heads a leading Rome-based journalist association.

A group of Kadhafi loyalists stopped the car, killed the driver, and took the journalists into a house where a reporter for the Avvenire Catholic paper was allowed to call their editors to explain what happened, ANSA reported.

Two other reporters were covering the conflict for Italy's top daily, Corriere della Sera, while the fourth writes for La Stampa, according to the reports.

Elisabetta Rosaspina of Corriere della Sera is the only woman in the group, Tucci told ANSA.

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Ingrid Does
Manager

Rosalinda Maduro
Chandette Richardson
Editors

Marline v. d. Linden
Asst. to the editors

Rosalie Klein
Reporter / Photographer

Yanis Garcia
Paula Iglesias
Sales

News Provider:
AFP-Agence France Presse

Printed by
Diario N.V.

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111
Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518

E-mail:
themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Website:
www.themorningnewsaruba.com

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The office of the Public Prosecutor of Aruba releases the last known photograph of missing US tourist

ORANJESTAD -- The Office of the Public Prosecutor of Aruba again calls on the public to give information to the police about the man G.V.G. who was arrested August 5, 2011 as a suspect in the investigation into the possible drowning of the American woman R.G. on August 2, 2011.

On August 11, 2011 the Office of the Public Prosecutor also released photos of the suspect and the woman R.G. However, this yielded little result and for that reason it was decided to publish the last known photos of the woman and the suspect. These photos were taken when they left the



"Rum Reef Restaurant" at Nanki the afternoon of the alleged drowning of the woman.

Further it was also decided to release a photo of the white Toyota Rav 4, an SUV with the license V-878, in use with the suspect and the woman during their stay in Aruba.

Anyone who has seen G.V.G. and can give information on him, his contacts and the places he and the woman



visited on the island is urgently requested to contact the Police of Aruba or to call the tip-line 11141.

A separate phone line for tips has been opened in the United States. The number is: 297 582 0695, preceded by the international access code. At this line a message can be

recorded.

The man G.V.G. and the woman R.G. arrived in Aruba together on July 31, 2011. According to the statement of the suspect the woman remained in sea near Nanki, after he had come out of the water after snorkeling together.

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Azzy is on the look-out for friends and family

We would like to introduce Azzy to you, one of the donkeys that is cared for at the Aruba Donkey Foundation. Two years ago she was found sauntering in the middle of the road, together with three other donkeys, in Santa Lucia. That was too dangerous with so much traffic there. The volunteers of the sanctuary lured the four donkeys inside with treats, where they have stayed. Azzy is a quiet donkey who has made friends with donkey Cloudy; they are always together. Donkeys are that way, very faithful. They often have a friend (boyfriend or girlfriend) for life. They are truly grieving when they lose their good friend, for whatever reason.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical his-

tory. The donkeys love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,-- per month for



the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it!

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General Pension Plan soon to be reality on Aruba



ORANJESTAD -- More than 70% of Aruban workers have no pension plan aside from the old-age pension program known as the AOV. As a result, most Arubans find it necessary to continue working for many years beyond their pension years in order to make ends meet. This is because they cannot survive only on the old-age pension stipend they receive from the AOV. Consequently this means that these people cannot truly enjoy their pension years.

Someone who had a salary of 2,3 or 4 thousand florins per month while they were employed, when they retire at 60, they will be forced to live on 1000 ruban florins per month. For a married couple this amount is 1850 Aruban florins monthly. This obviously creates a major problem for many

families. Hence, it is practically impossible to survive without having to find extra income from other sources. According to the Prime Minister of Aruba, this situation is a very painful one for as many as 70% of our citizens. This is why the government has, together with our social partners, made a commitment to change this situation in the future.

The idea now is to supplement the AOV with an obligatory pension regulated by law. The law will stipulate a regimen of a pension for every employee on Aruba. The proposal is that every employee will pay one half of the premium while the employee will be obliged to pay the other half. The law will also stipulate that in the event an employee changes job, his pension program with one employer will go with him

to the new employer so that he does not lose any built up pension benefits.

The Prime Minister explained that this general pension program will begin with 1% for the employer and 1% of the monthly salary for the employee. This should increase to 6%, which means it will be 3% for the employee and 3% for the employer. Naturally, if between employee and employer they wish to increase this to a higher amount, such an agreement can be made between them.

Also, if an employer wishes to pay the full premium, this is also possible. The law will only require him to pay 50% of the premium.

This general pension program will be a tremendous social change for Aruba. The Prime Minister expressed much satisfaction with this major social advancement. He went on to say that... "we can now say that our country has a general old age pension, as well as a general health insurance program for every citizen.....!"

Construction niche revived

Continued from page 1

Geerman Construction is the company that won the bid to renovate the Dominicus College, while Bohama NV will renovate the La Salle College.

The signing ceremony took place in the assembly room of the council of Ministers in the presents of representatives and the different parties involved as well as the ministers of the Eman Cabinet.

The BoAruba plan entails a large number of projects to improve the atmosphere and the overall improvement of the barrios. It entails the renovation of schools, historic buildings, and the Yuwana Morto project. This last project, the Yuwana project in San Nicolaas, is perhaps one of the most revolutionary because of the solar panels which will be placed on the roofs of the homes in this barrio. According to the government, all of this is a part of their vision to improve the quality of life and the quality of the Aruba product.

The school renovation project for which documents were signed yesterday will have a price tag of 5.5 million Florins. Bohama will renovate the La Salle College while Geerman Construction will be responsible for renovating the Dominicus College for 1.4 million Florins.

As it stands now, practically every week there is an announcement for the construction of a construction project to be placed on open bidding. It has been reported that for this year alone the FDA has approved more projects than in any previous year of its existence.

In the ensuing weeks the De Vuyst, Yuwana Morto and Madiki projects will begin. It is expected too that during this week they will submit a very important plan to FDA for the renovation of San Nicolaas. This plan involves the renovation of the Village, Diamantbergweg, the center of San Nicolaas, and a park at the entrance of Esso Heights.

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Lion Fish Control...

Continued from page 1

Lionfish is an invasive species which do not belong in our waters posing a threat to marine life in Aruba. This species multiplies itself rapidly. More than 2 million eggs are hatched every year by one female fish. It has a ravenous appetite. It has been seen eating 20 fish in about 30 seconds and they can eat 24 hours a day. Because our organisms are not familiar with the Lionfish they do not shun them, while other fish bigger than the Lionfish do not eat them either. As a result of these factors the Lionfish can eliminate much of our fish and other organisms not familiar with them. This will create a serious imbalance in our ecosystem. What's more, the fins of the Lionfish are extremely painful if you get stuck by one. This is why there is a call to everyone, especially our fishermen and divers to help with eradicating this monster from our sea waters.

Championship with attractive prizes:

Just like in the March Derby of last year, the national championship is concentrating solely on Lionfish, and winners will receive prizes just like in any other sport. Very attractive prizes can be won at the end of the championship in December. Go to their Face Book page: facebook.com/ArubaMarineParkeFoundation, for more information.

Divi's Jazz Quartet delivers a sunset concert every Sunday

DRUIF BEACH – One of Aruba's truly simple pleasures requires nothing more than hanging out at Divi Mega Resort, right by beach bar to listen to the Divi Jazz Quartet, on any given Sunday afternoon.

The quartet plays music which could easily be described as feet in Aruba, head in the sky! While resort patrons sip on their long, cool umbrella drinks, the music springing from the small stage is clearly anchored in the Caribbean region, popular and easily recognizable classic compositions imported from traditional American Jazz into Brazilian, Caribbean, Latin and local groove. The tunes sound deliciously laid back and ear-pleasingly melodic, in perfect sync with the resort's famous beach, which serves as a breathtaking musical backdrop.

Band leader Ivan Jansen is one of Aruba's premier musicians, having graduated the



Berklee College of Music, in Boston, he is a world-class guitarist and a talented performer. Jansen put together his quartet in 2003, making Divi Resorts the band's permanent home. They play at the resort during Happy Hour, and at the clubhouse restaurants at Divi

Links – catch Ivan Jansen's solo guitar performance on Thursdays at Windows on Aruba. Then the band plays at Mulligan's Golf Café Bar & Restaurant on Fridays & Saturdays, also at Windows on Aruba during Sunday Brunch.

Jansen is the acoustic and

electric Jazz guitar player, Richard Holmond the drummer, Roy Croes the bass player and Franklin Granadillo blows the trumpet. All members of the band are well-respected Aruban musicians -- Granadillo who is also a Berklee College of Music graduate, is a much in demand local arranger.

Jansen's personal contributions to local culture and music are numerous, besides setting a high standard of performance in a continuous pursuit of perfection. As a music educator he nurtures greatness in progress, teaching and encouraging young musicians from the island to spread their wings and become prodigies. He is also tirelessly recording and is currently working on his 5th CD, an ambitious co-pro-

duction with members of his quartet and a number of top contemporary names, artists he met while playing international Jazz Festivals. The CD titled NEW HORIZONS will featured 10 original tracks, having been recorded in the US and in Aruba.

Jansen's previous work included Con Alma I & II, two magnificent classical solo guitar CDs, Versatility, a Caribbean jazz compilation of original composition and Jazz at Divi, an acoustic production consisting of timeless jazz standards, boleros, Brazilian music, even pop jazz, all tastefully arranged by Jansen and performed in the original and refreshing style of the Ivan Jansen Jazz Quartet.

Pictured here the Divi Jazz Quartet with Serghio, in for a guest appearance, also with exciting NY saxophonist Alex Han, on the island for vacation



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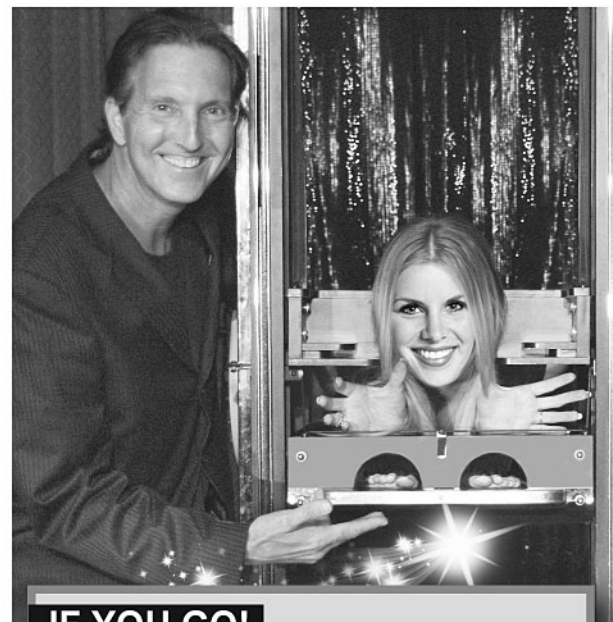
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Sci-Tech

Why East Coast earthquakes travel so far

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A rare 5.8 earthquake that rattled the eastern United States on Tuesday was felt over a wide area from Toronto, Canada down to Georgia due to the hard, brittle quality of the ground, experts said.

The quake that struck mid-afternoon near Richmond, Virginia was the strongest in the state since 1897, and shook the eastern seaboard for some 30 seconds, sparking a wave of panic among residents.

"Earthquakes of this magnitude are unusual in your area, but the fact that you shook so hard and the event was actually some distance from you is not unusual," Thomas Jordan, director of Southern California Earthquake Center based at the University of Southern California, told AFP by phone.

The outer rocky shell of the Earth, known as the lithosphere, is colder on the East Coast than in California, which is well known for experiencing frequent earth-

quakes.

"So when something shakes, it is like hitting a bar of steel, it rings pretty well. Whereas on the West Coast, the rocks are higher temperature and it is more like hitting something quite a bit softer," he said.

Lucy Jones, a USGS spokeswoman, said the West Coast crust is broken up by active faults so it "doesn't do as good of a job of transmitting the energy."

"On the East Coast, you have this old, hard, cold crust that does a lovely job of transmitting the waves like a solid bell," she said on CNN, so that an earthquake "can definitely be felt hundreds of miles away."

The US East Coast has plenty of fault lines, but they are ancient, and are inside a creaky plate that is under pressure from being jostled and pushed by other plates, experts said.

Occasionally, pressure builds up and stresses will be released in earthquakes, like

the one on Tuesday.

"They are faults that used to be very active faults hundreds of millions of years ago, unlike the faults on the West Coast... (that) are active today," Jordan said.

Jack Boatwright, a seismologist with USGS, told AFP that one aftershock of 2.8 magnitude was recorded in the hour following the quake.

Other parts of the world that are similar to the US East Coast in terms of earthquake dynamics would include India, as well as some parts of Russia and Australia, he added.

"In India, that large triangle is relatively old, so we think that it conducts energy similarly," he said.

Other differences between East and West Coast quakes are the sounds they make -- residents of California are less likely to hear banging associated with a big quake unless they are very near the epicenter, he said.

Sony unveils new digital camera: "Alpha 77"



JAPAN, Tokyo : Japan's electronics giant Sony unveils the company's new interchangeable lens digital camera called the "Alpha 77" at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on August 24, 2011. The Alpha 77 has a 24.3 megapixel CMOS image sensor which enables the user to shoot 12 frames per second with phase-detection autofocus. Sony will put it on the market on October 14. (AFP PHOTO)



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Health & Living

Nuts-and-soy diet beats low-fat diet: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - People who ate a diet rich in foods that lower cholesterol, such as nuts, soy, avocado, olive oil and oats, saw a bigger drop in cholesterol than people on a low-fat diet, said a US study on Tuesday.

After six months of eating a diet that specifically included foods that lower LDL cholesterol, the randomized trial showed people experienced a 13 percent drop in low-density lipoprotein (LDL, or "bad" cholesterol).

Those on a diet that just emphasized low-fat foods, in-

cluding high-fiber options and whole grains, saw a three percent drop in LDL, said the report in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"This study indicated the potential value of using recognized cholesterol-lowering foods in combination," said the study.

The trial took place at four different sites in Canada -- Quebec City, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver -- and included 351 participants with elevated cholesterol levels.

Those on the concentrated cholesterol-lowering regime were divided into two groups -- one which had two nutritional counseling sessions and the other which had seven clinic visits over six months -- but both saw very similar results.

The trial did not restrict calories or provide subjects with food. All the subjects lost a similar amount of weight -- between 1.2-1.7 kilograms

(2.6-3.7 pounds) -- during the study.

Foods included in the cholesterol-lowering group were drawn from a list of US Food and Drug Administration approved suggestions for better heart health, including the use of olive oil instead of butter, and margarine products fortified with plant sterols that help block absorption of cholesterol.

Other such foods included avocado, oatmeal, soy, tofu, beans, lentils, almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, pecans, pistachio nuts and walnuts.

The study had a high overall dropout rate -- 22.6 percent -- though it noted "this attrition rate is common to dietary studies provided at these levels of intensity."

Another drawback was that it included mainly white subjects of moderate weight with low heart disease risk, so it was "unknown" if similar effects would be seen in "higher-risk, more overweight, or obese patient populations."

Tips for cooking fish



You want to eat more fish? Don't worry, cooking fish isn't difficult, as you'll see in this 5-way guide:

To begin with, only buy fish that is refrigerated or properly iced. Fresh fish should smell fresh and mild, not fishy, sour or ammonia-like. Whole fish and fillets should have firm, shiny flesh and bright red gills free from slime. When buying frozen fish, avoid packages placed above the frost line or top of the freezer case. If the package is transparent, look for signs of frost or ice crystals. These could mean the fish has been stored a long time or thawed and refrozen -- in which case, choose another package.

****Poaching** is a healthy and easy way to cook tender fish. In a shallow pan, place the fish on a bed of aromatic ingredients add a few ounces of vegetable broth and some herbs. Cover loosely and gently simmer on the stove top. Cook 4 to 6 minutes covered.

****Fish** should be cooked to an internal temperature of 145 F.

****Wrap it up**, it's easy and delicious to cook fish fillets in packets of parchment paper, a technique called en papillote. The fish is cooked by the trapped steam. The fish need to bake for only 10 to 15 minutes at 400 F.

****Grilling** is a great way to prepare fish -- it's quick and adds a distinctive flavor.

****Baking** is a healthier alternative to frying. You can bread and bake any fish this way, but tilapia is a good choice because it's thin and cooks quickly in a hot oven, producing a crispy crust.

Health Tip:

Get a Better Night's Sleep



-- Instead of turning to a pot of coffee to keep you awake during the day, experts say you should focus on getting better sleep at night.

The National Sleep Foundation offers these suggestions for more restful sleep:

- Wake in the morning and go to bed at night at the same time.
- Relax before bedtime.
- Make sure your bedroom is comfortable, dark, cool and quiet, and do nothing in your bedroom other than sleep and have sex.
- Avoid eating, exercising and consuming caffeine within a few hours of bedtime.
- Don't smoke, and avoid alcohol just before bed.
- Make sure your mattress and pillows are comfortable.



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Police Force celebrated 25th anniversary with all the pomp and fashion

On the evening of the 17th of August on the impressive Plaza Betico Croes, the Aruba Police Force celebrated 25 years of its existence since Aruba's Status Aparte. It was Status Aparte that ushered in a new Police Force separate from the rest of the Antilles. On the occasion of their celebration Aruba was honored with a tremendous "National Gift" of over 100 local artists who performed in honor of the Aruba Police Force.

The night was replete with artistic and cultural performances in different forms, styles and artistic disciplines. We were treated to dance, music, poetry, song, video and visual arts. Young Aruban violinist, Omar Kock delighted the audience with several classic and traditional pieces as he opened the ceremony musically. Freddy Montoya of the Department of Culture together with 25 members of the Police Academy were in charge of the opening ceremonies. Joan Dannies recited a beautiful poem written by Frank Croes.

While reciting her poem Omar Kock accompanied her in the background with delightful violin music. A torch was brought in carried by 25 policemen to represent the 25 years of the history and work as well



as the symbol of light and valor of our police men.

The opening ceremonies continued with the entrance of the Aruba flag and the flag of the Police Force which was presented for the first time that evening. The majestic acapelo voices of the Melange male choir, directed by Mabeline Arends Croes resounded with the melodic sounds of our national anthem, the Aruba Dushi Tera. This was followed by the singing of the Police Force's anthem composed and accompanied by Eddy Ras on the keyboard.

Several members and representatives of the Police Force offered words of praise and remembrance. Inspector Papito

Comenencia, spokesman for the Police Force opened the way for the folklore dance. This was followed by the Baile Masiduri Group, directed by Vilma Kelly who performed a potpourri of walses which were sung by Sharon Rose with Joan Becker doing the choreography. Talented vocalist, Gariela Krosendijk delighted everyone with the interpretation of the song, "Supla Riba Nos," which is a composition of J. Freddy Montoya and arranged by Gos Oduber. The Betico Group was the accompaniment for this delightful piece of music.

The Baile Masiduri Group did a fabulous pole dance while interpreting "La Trompeta" with choreography by Joan Becker and Vilma Kelly. This wonderful piece of music was composed by the deceased Francisco Chonchoo - Boekhoudt who was also a policeman.

The program then changed from dance to singing, from singing the national anthem to singing carnival songs. Kiziah Trimon (Roadmarch Infant Queen 2011) mesmerized the audience with her Valentino King's song "Pump e Carnival." The Kids in Action group accompanied the singing of the carnival song with a beautiful dance show. This was followed by "Dance Control Group" who

presented "Dream," accompanied by different participants of the Gang di Arte 2011 team "Dream Boyz" followed with another fantastic presentation.

The evening's presentations were replete with numerous winners of contests, such as Osvaldo Correa who has a 2 year consecutive win in Aruba and Curacao in the "Arte di Palabra" competitions, and Linette do Nascimento and Alexis Wever winners in the "Sparkling Dancers" competition.

Remarkable also was to witness the participation of female representatives of the Aruba Police Force who performed flawlessly in the different activities organized by our policemen. Yelitza Croes and her "Biba Aruba" was fantastic.

Simply fabulous was the presentation of "Undercover Reality," a group from San Nicolaas under the able direction of Taiisia Alleyne.

Policeman John Larmony presented a video of scenes of some of the outstanding accomplishments of the Police Force during the past 25 years. During the video presentation we could have enjoyed the music of Eddy Ras' new CD recording which was dedicated to the Police Force. Ras is an instructor at the Aruba police academy.

For the closure of the

evening Carnival music resounded over the stage and entire area, with, among others, "Aint Missing Youvert Morning." "The Super Dancers" directed by Magaly Croes mesmerized the audience with an impressive line up of outfits, designs, colors, joy and dance along with a tremendous Carnival show. TBS accompanied them with their contagious musical brass band.

The Committee for the Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Police Force under the leadership of Papito Comenencia did a marvelous job in organizing the entire event. Mention must be made also of Andy Young, Delma McBarney, Joseph Spellin, Vanessa Koolman, and Esther Pena-Luidens who were also part of the work of this fabulous evening.

A special note of thanks was in order for the team of the Department of Culture, to mention, Jhon Freddy Montoya general coordinator, Marlene Lampe backstage coordinator, and John Flemming coordinator for the Plaza gastronomic fair. From Juliene Paskel, Frank Croes, Shayline Lee, Stanley Dabian, Ricardo V/de Biezen and Robert Loopstok they received much support and cooperation. With respect to the coordination of the Commemorative event, here Maria Tereza Martinez played a valuable role together with Cherry Ras, Angela Velasco and Roland Jansen.

Everyone who contributed to making the evening the fantastic event that it was deserves much praise and gratitude, to mention the gastronomic artists, DCA, Cas di Cultura, ELITE, IDEFRE, DOW and the local press. Thanks to all for a well-done job! The Police Force is extremely grateful for the attention they received and the opportunity to treat the community with such a delightful program.

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RBTT Bank Aruba N.V. honors landmark anniversaries of two employees



ORANJESTAD – Recently, RBTT Aruba Bank, N.V. congratulated Mrs. Ellen Zapata-Hernandez and Mr. Carlos Krosendijk who have been working with the prestigious bank for 12½ and 40 years respectively.

Ellen started her banking career as Accounting Clerk,

then moved on to work as a Teller and since this year, she occupies the function of Reconciliation Officer.

Carlos started working with RBTT in 1971 as an office boy, after which he several functions, including Automation / Visual Inspection, Clerk, General Affairs, Facilities Clerk-

Utilities and as of 2006, he works in the Mailroom.

RBTT Bank Aruba N.V. congratulates the Ellen and Carlos on these landmark occasions, and wished them lots of success.

Photo shows the celebrants with their respective department supervisors.

ASTEC inverting for a more efficient and professional service at the container harbor



ORANJESTAD – Aruba Stevedoring Company (ASTEC) N.V. expedited its plan to provide more efficient service at the container port with the recent acquisition of two new Reach stackers. A Reach Stacker is one of the most flexible handling solutions for operation of a small terminal or a medium sized port. Reach stackers are able to transport a container short distances very quickly, and pile them in various rows depending on needed access.

The new equipment was purchased in January from the Swedish company Konecranes, a world-leader in the lifting business and serving manufacturing and process industries, shipyards and harbors with productivity enhancing

lifting solutions and service.

The Reach Stackers have a capacity of 45 tons and can stack 5 containers. They are "environmentally friendly" with low carbon emissions and fuel efficiency in mind. They are also easy to handle by operators, thus enhancing efficiency and service to the client.

Photos show the two new Reach Stackers at the container port.

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READING ROOM

ACROSS

1. Duffer's hope
4. Talented
8. "___ Like You" (Weill song)
12. Kin of sherbet
13. "Birth of the ___" (Davis opus)
14. NYC place to see Pollock's paintings
15. Kipling work
18. Tranquilize
19. Choir singers
20. Carrier pigeon's burden
23. Lake in Ireland

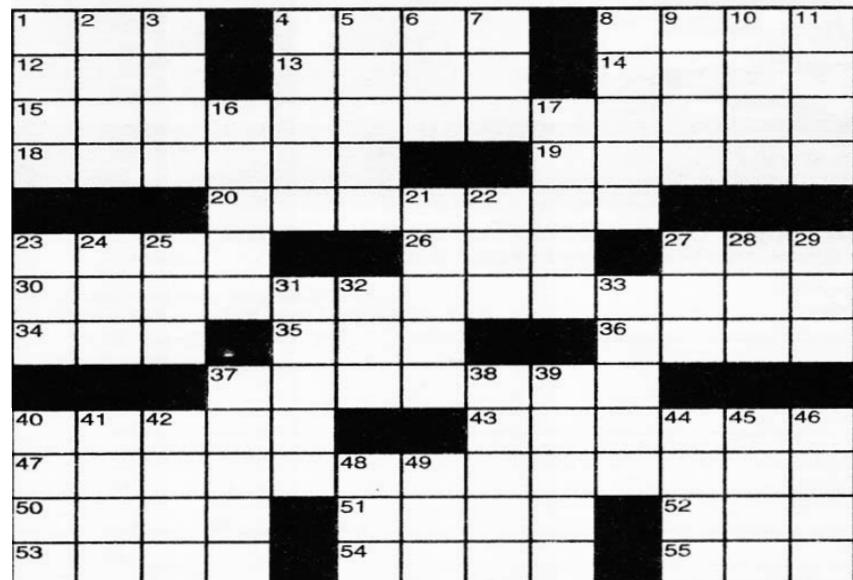
26. Land area: abbr.
27. Pulver, e.g.: abbr.
30. Is a stickler
34. Like Felix and Oscar
35. Golfer Trevino
36. Capp of the comics
37. Hunting hounds
40. Malibu, for one
43. Red quartz
47. Study
50. Porcine remark
51. Erica's "Fame" role
52. Gun, as a

- motor
53. Tiger's supply
54. "Render therefore ___ Caesar..." (Matthew 22:21)
55. Psychic letters

DOWN

1. Olive stones
2. Charley horse
3. Wetland grass
4. Angle of less than 90 degrees
5. Roll the ___
6. Captain's diary
7. Room shape
8. Meander

9. Trunk, to a Brit
10. Melville title
11. Shaggy oxen
16. "Good Times" patriarch
17. Philly athlete
21. Tracts
22. Shade of blonde
23. Freud subject
24. Shooting iron
25. Homer's neighborino
27. Geological age
28. Start to doze
29. Chicken Little's concern
31. Like some stares
32. "Definitely!"
33. King of Egypt in "Aida," e.g.
37. Ditch diggers' aching spots
38. Do a bouncer's job
39. Prohibited
40. John Knox, e.g.
41. Jay Gould railroad
42. Comic Cook
44. Minute opening
45. ___ out (gets by)
46. Host's request
48. SMU's rival
49. Term of endearment

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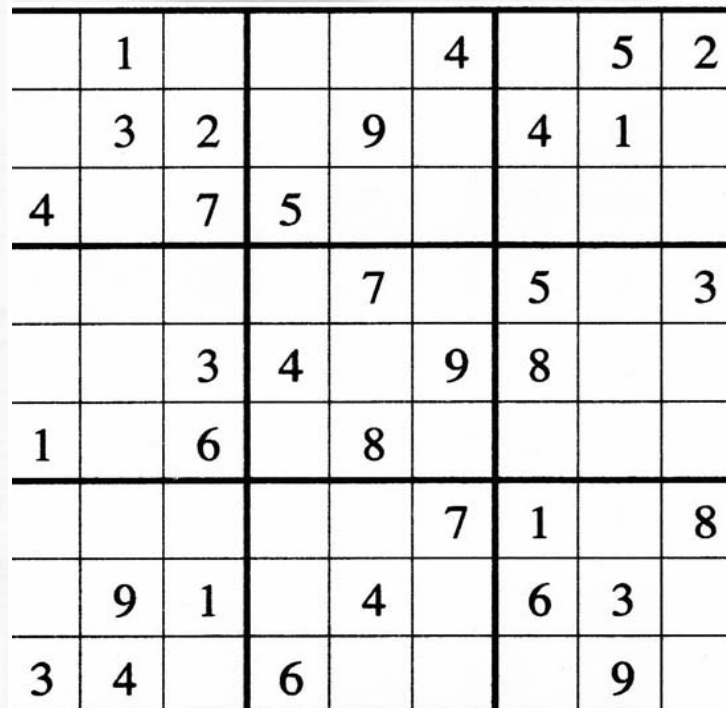
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Finance

US deficit will shrink if tax breaks end: Congress

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The huge US budget deficit, which earned the country its first credit rating downgrade, will drop quickly by 2013 if planned spending cuts are implemented and temporary tax breaks end, a new government report said Wednesday.

But with such a tough budget regimen the unemployment rate will remain above eight percent for the next three years, the Congressional Budget Office said in a new study.

The CBO said that the budget deficit could fall from \$1,284 trillion this year, or 8.5 percent of gross domestic product, to just \$510 billion, or 3.2 percent of GDP, by 2013 under certain key conditions.

Those include implementing a new \$2.4 trillion austerity plan, letting a handful of tax breaks expire, and cutting payments to doctors in the public Medicare health serv-

ice.

If all were put in place, and if economic growth hits 2.3 percent this year and 2.7 percent next year, the result could be a sharp contraction of the government deficit that would put it at around 1.7 percent of GDP by 2018.

That outcome would counter the arguments made by Standard & Poor's when it cut Washington's credit rating one notch from the top-line AAA grade on August 5, citing high debt and deficits and expressing doubts that the country's politicians could agree on a credible deficit-cutting program.

The CBO's assumptions are that the August 2 Budget Control Act, passed by Congress amid deep rancor in a rush to avoid forcing the country to avoid defaulting on its debt, is implemented.

The austerity plan mandates \$900 billion in spending cuts and that a panel of

Democrats and Republicans in Congress agree by November additional measures to reduce the deficit by \$1.5 trillion.

S&P and others expressed doubts that the panel will be able to agree: Democrats already have signaled they want to end tax breaks and raise some taxes, while Republicans have adamantly refused any tax hikes.

Economists also worry that sharp spending cuts will restrain the economy and job creation; many have already cut their forecasts for growth this year to less than 2.0 percent.

"If some of the changes specified in current law did not occur and current policies were continued instead, much larger deficits and much greater debt could result," the CBO warned.

Forbes names Merkel world's most powerful woman

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Forbes magazine on Wednesday named German Chancellor Angela Merkel the world's most powerful woman, calling her the "undisputed" leader of the European Union and head of its only "real global economy."

Merkel, who has topped the list of the world's 100 most powerful women in all but one of the years since she became chancellor in November 2005, beat out US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and, in 3rd place, Dilma Rousseff, who became Brazil's first woman president on January 1, 2011.

"German Chancellor Angela Merkel is head of the one real global economy in Europe and is the 'undisputed' leader of the EU," Forbes said.

"Although overseeing a booming economy and falling unemployment, she contends with a weakening support

base and crisis in the euro-zone, where Germany is often in the unenviable position of bailing out its weaker neighbors.

"She is out to stabilize EU debt and keep the 17-member euro zone unified."

It was Merkel's fifth time at the top of the list.

The 57-year-old politician led it from 2006 to 2009 but then was bumped back to 4th place last year by US first lady Michelle Obama, Kraft Foods chief executive Irene Rosenfeld, and chat-show host Oprah Winfrey.

Clinton, listed 5th in 2010, climbed to the second rung after more than two grueling years as President Barack Obama's top diplomat.

After Rousseff was Indra Nooyi, the India-born, naturalized American chief executive of Pepsi; Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg; philanthropist Melinda Gates, India President Sonia Gandhi, Michelle Obama, International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde, and Rosenfeld.

The list was heavily tilted toward Americans, 65 of the 100 places. Australia, China, India and Britain each had three.

The oldest on the list was Britain's Queen Elizabeth, 85 and ranked number 49; the youngest was 25-year-old pop queen Lady Gaga, ranked 11th.

Chavez officially nationalizes Venezuela's gold industry

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez signed into law Tuesday the official nationalization of the country's gold mining industry and announced the impending arrival of the first shipment of repatriated gold.

"In order to reinforce national independence, economic independence... I sign this national decree for gold,"

added the Venezuelan president.

In December, Venezuelan lawmakers granted Chavez extraordinary legislative powers to govern the country by decree until the middle of next year.

During the ceremony, Chavez brandished a gold bullion from the Central Bank of Venezuela's coffers, which holds 154 tons of gold, an amount worth \$7.2 billion.

The Venezuelan leader also announced that he expects to move some \$6.2 billion in cash reserves from banks in Switzerland, Britain, France and the United States to markets in "friendly" countries such as China, Russia and Brazil.

The leading oil exporter in South America, Venezuela has the 15th largest gold reserves in the world, with an estimated 365.8 tons, according to the World Gold Council.

Google to settle drug probe for \$500 million

NEW YORK (AFP) - Google will pay \$500 million to settle charges that it sold advertisements to Canada-based online pharmacies which marketed drugs to Americans in violation of US law, US justice officials announced Wednesday.

The pharmacies broke the law by selling prescription drugs to Americans without complying with US safety standards, the US Department of Justice said in a statement. The pharmacies used Google's Adwords programs to target US customers, and the Internet search giant allowed the ads to appear on its website from 2003 to 2009, it said.

"This investigation is about the patently unsafe, unlawful importation of prescription drugs by Canadian online pharmacies, with Google's knowledge and assistance, into the United States, directly to US consumers," US Attorney Peter Neronha said in the statement.

Prices for prescription

drugs are much lower in Canada than in the United States, where the private sector dominates the healthcare industry.

In recent years it has become increasingly popular for US citizens to seek medicines from Canada to save on healthcare expenses.

But the Department of Justice said imported drugs from Canada may not meet US Food and Drug Administration labelling rules, may not have been made properly and may be from third countries other than Canada.

Under the settlement, Google accepted responsibility for improperly helping the Canadian pharmacies and promised to step up its compliance measures in the future, as well as disgorging \$500 million in profits.

Google first disclosed that it was under investigation in a May filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, and set aside \$500 million in anticipation of the results of the probe.

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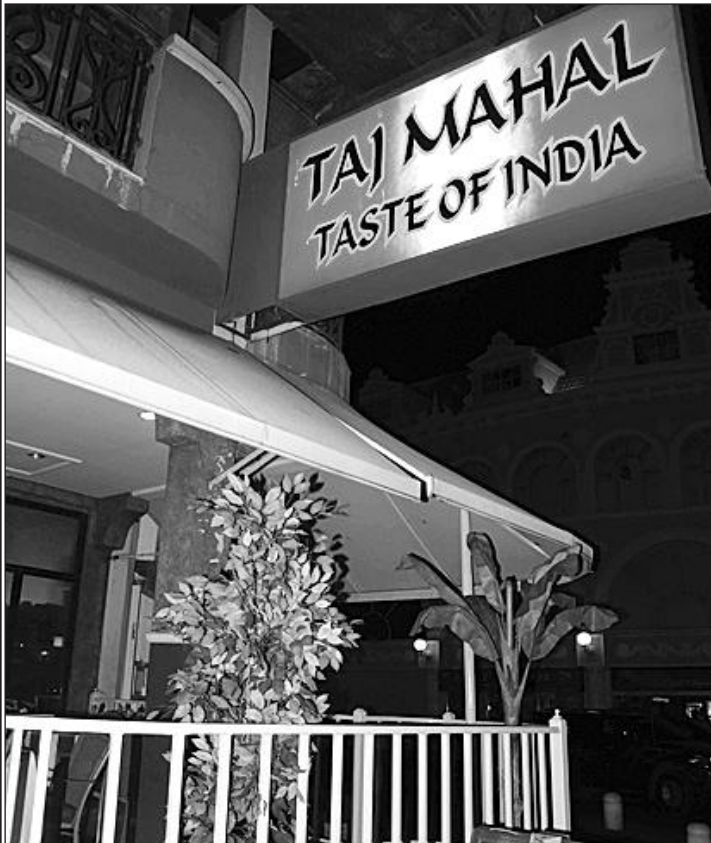
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Taj Mahal Restaurant in Oranjestad is an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal," discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces

seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a sin-



Tandoori oven

gle crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either

cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough

left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too.

If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.

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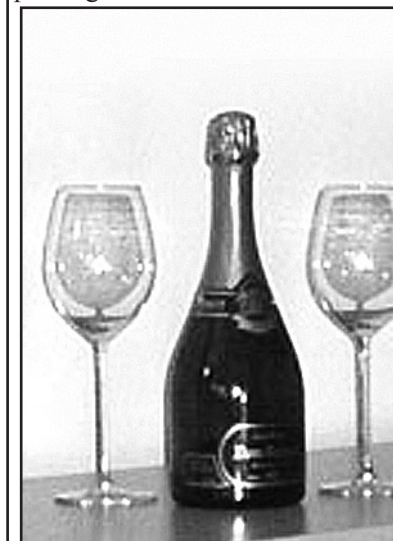
a bathroom, a kitchenette in the dining/living area, ideal for one or two persons. Note: the room has a sofa bed, so up to 4 persons can stay in the apartment.

The double bedroom apartment will give you two bedrooms, one with a queen size bed, and one with two single beds. There is a bathroom, a kitchenette, dining area/living room, and also a spacious patio or balcony to relax outside. Note: the room has a sofa bed, so up to 6 persons can stay in the apartment.

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You are getting old when you enjoy remembering things more than doing them

In death, Amy Winehouse sets British sales milestone



Swedish born artist Johann Andersson poses with his painting of the late British singer Amy Winehouse in the Lock Tavern, which was one of her favorite bars, in north London, on August 23, 2011.

LONDON (AFP) - A surge in interest in the music of Amy Winehouse following her death has seen her final release become the biggest selling album of the century in Britain, figures showed Wednesday.

Winehouse's 2006 album "Back To Black" has now sold 3,259,100 copies, edging ahead of the previous record holder by James Blunt, according to the Official Chart Company.

Blunt's 2005 album "Back

To Bedlam" has sold 3,241,118 copies.

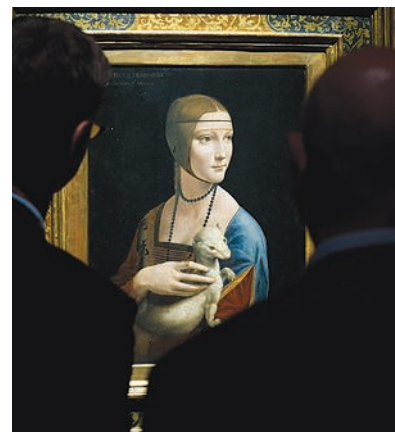
It was announced on Wednesday that music legend Tony Bennett will lead a tribute to Winehouse at an international MTV awards event in Los Angeles on Sunday.

Bennett, 85, will introduce a special section of the MTV Video Music Awards including footage of him recording with Winehouse at Abbey Road Studios in March as they sang "Body And Soul" for his "Duets II" album.

He said: "It was a thrill to record with Amy Winehouse and when you listen to the recording of 'Body And Soul', it is a testament to her artistic genius and her brilliance as one of the most honest musicians I have ever known."

Winehouse, who battled with alcohol and drugs throughout her life, was found dead at her home in Camden, north London on July 23. She was 27.

Da Vinci portrait back in Germany for first time since war



BERLIN (AFP) - Leonardo da Vinci's treasured painting "Lady with an Ermine", a work belonging to Poland that was stolen by the Nazis, has gone on display in Germany for the first time since World War II.

The 15th century portrait of a young woman holding a white ermine -- otherwise known as a stoat or short-tailed weasel -- has pride of place in a major exhibition of Renaissance art to open Thursday at Berlin's Bode Museum.

Along with the Mona Lisa, the work is one of just four paintings of women by the

famed Italian Renaissance master.

Stolen by Hitler's troops during World War II, the masterpiece was later returned to Poland.

The culture ministry in Warsaw was initially hostile to the idea of the painting on wood leaving the country, fearing it could be damaged.

But a personal appeal by its owner, Polish aristocrat Prince Adam Karol Czartoryski, convinced the ministry to allow it to go on display in Madrid earlier this year, then Berlin and later London.

The German press called the loan a gesture of "reconciliation" between Poland and Germany.

Around 1800, the Czartoryski family acquired the 54x39 centimetre (21.25x15 inch) portrait painted by da Vinci between 1488 and 1490.

The work is believed to depict Cecilia Gallerani, the mistress of an Italian nobleman, Ludovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan and the son of one of da Vinci's patrons.

Teams and seedings for Champions League draw



PARIS (AFP) - A full list of the 32 teams that will feature in Thursday's draw in Monaco for the Champions League group stage, and their seedings:

POT 1

Barcelona (reigning champions)

Manchester United
Chelsea
Bayern Munich
Arsenal
Real Madrid
FC Porto
Inter Milan

POT 2

AC Milan
Lyon
Shakhtar Donetsk
Valencia
Benfica
Villarreal
CSKA Moscow
Marseille

POT 3

Zenit St Petersburg
Ajax
Bayer Leverkusen
Olympiakos
Manchester City
Lille
FC Basel
BATE Borisov

POT 4

Borussia Dortmund
Napoli
Dinamo Zagreb
APOEL Nicosia
Trabzonspor
Genk
Viktoria Plzen
FC Otelul Galati

The 32 teams will be split into eight groups of four, with one team from each pot. The seedings are organised in conjunction with UEFA's club coefficients, with pot one containing the eight highest-ranked teams.

No two teams from the same country can be drawn in the same group.

The group stage will start on September 13 and runs until December 7.

Nakamura reclaims world title in all-Japan final



Japan's Misato Nakamura celebrates with her gold medal during the podium ceremony for the - 52kg category at the Judo World Championships

PARIS (AFP) - Japan claimed a clean sweep of the gold medals on the second day of the World Judo Championships at the Palais Omnisport de Bercy here on Wednesday.

Riki Nakaya, Aiko Sato and Misato Nakamura won their categories to take Japan's record to five golds from the six categories contested so far this week.

In two of the three categories of the day Japan boasted the reigning champion but although both of those failed to retain their titles, other fighters stepped up to the plate instead.

World number two Nakaya ushered in a changing of the guard at under-73kg when he beat holder and compatriot Hiroyuki Aki-

moto in the semi-final, scoring a half-point waza-ari with an outer leg reap (osoto-gari).

Before that he had produced the throw of the day in golden score in his quarter-final against Kazakhstan's Rinat Ibragimov with a counter pick-up (te-guruma) that lifted Ibragimov almost to head height before he came crashing down on his back.

The final pitted Nakaya against world number four Dex Elmont who had impressed all day with his shoulder throw (seoinage) but needed a judges' decision to make the final after a scoreless semi against France's Ugo Legrand.

The final was far from a classic and it was decided on a single penalty, shown to Elmont for passivity.

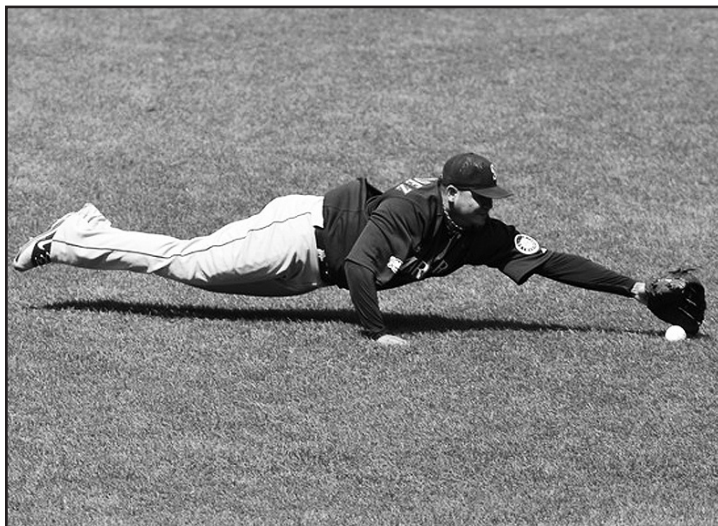
Legrand won hosts France's first medal of the competition as he took bronze along with Uzbekistan's Navruz Jurakobilov.

Sato was another to depose a reigning champion compatriot in the semi-final of the under-57kg division as she dominated Kaori Matsumoto, who is also the world number one.

It was her first ever win over her rival.

"Obviously my hardest fight was Matsumoto as I had fought her four times before and lost every time," she said.

"But since I had lost four times before I had nothing to lose so there wasn't much pressure."



Starting pitcher Felix Hernandez #34 of the Seattle Mariners dives for a ground ball hit by Ezequiel Carrera #12 of the Cleveland Indians during the third inning at Progressive Field on August 24, 2011 in Cleveland, Ohio.



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Player strike looms over opening Italian weekend



ROME (AFP) - Italy's Serie A, which is due to get under way this weekend, was facing a strike threat on Wednesday after players and club bosses failed to agree over a new collective bargaining deal.

If the strike goes ahead, it will be the second European league disrupted by industrial action after players in Spain's top two divisions went on strike last week, with a repeat of their stoppage planned for this weekend.

"The Serie A clubs voted 18 to two against an agreement with the AIC (the players' union)," said Maurizio Beretta, the president of LEGA (union of Serie A clubs).

The two sides are locked over a new collective bar-

gaining agreement after the last contract expired at the end of the 2010-11 season.

"For the moment, the conditions for us to play do not exist," said AIC president Damiano Tommasi.

"I am horrified that we can't play this weekend, but we cannot start the new season without a collective agreement."

There are two barriers to a new deal.

Article 7 wants a change to training arrangements, with players' representatives insisting that players in the middle of contract disputes must not be forced to train separately from the main squad.

Article 4, meanwhile, concerns the 'solidarity tax' that players are required to pay.

Club bosses were defiant in the face of a possible shut-down.

"Let them strike. We cannot continue with a gun pointed at our heads," said Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis.

"We're not trying to wage war on anyone. It's just a cultural problem, as the collective bargaining contract is out-dated by 30 years. There's no point renewing it when we have to revamp it."

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Davydenko suffers setback in US Open build-up



WINSTON-SALEM (AFP) - Nikolay Davydenko's summer campaign stalled with a third-round loss at the Winston-Salem Open Wednesday as third seed Alexandr Dolgoplov pushed through to the quarter-finals of the US Open warm-up.

Ukrainian ninth seed Sergiy Stakhovsky earned his first win against one-time top-five regular Davydenko, upsetting the 39th-ranked Russian fifth seed 6-4, 6-4.

Dolgoplov, who grew up as a toddler on the ATP as his father coached 1999 Roland Garros finalist Andrei Medvedev, needed more than two hours to hold off Bulgarian 14th seed Grigor Dimitrov, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (9/7).

Frenchman Julien Ben-

neteau ended the run of Igor Andreev 2-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) a day after the Russian clay-courtier, ranked 79th, put out second seed Jurgen Melzer.

Davydenko, who has not been past a second round since winning Munich nearly four months ago, had been hoping to start building momentum for Monday's start of the US Open during this final preparation week.

But Stakhovsky put paid to that scenario as he advanced to the last eight with six aces and three breaks of the 30-year-old's serve to next face Benneteau.

Davydenko won their two previous meetings, spread between the first in 2004 and the second a week ago in the Cincinnati first round.

The winner will be playing in his third quarter-final of the season in a field headed by 21st-ranked Andy Roddick, who has been plagued by injuries and poor form in 2011.

Dolgoplov managed nine aces to 10 for rising star Dimitrov, with the winner moving into his seventh quarter-final of 2011.

American crowd-pleasers take to the court later, with Roddick playing Santiago Giraldo of Colombia and fourth seed, and local boy, John Isner taking on Finn Jarkko Nieminen.

Gomez, Robben fit as Bayern rule out transfer raid

BERLIN (AFP) - Dutch winger Arjen Robben and Germany star Mario Gomez are expected to be in action for Bayern Munich this weekend as the club on Wednesday ruled out a new signing as cover for the injured Ivica Olic.

Gomez injured his thigh after scoring the winner in Tuesday's 1-0 Champions League win at FC Zurich as Bayern wrapped up a 3-0 aggregate win over two legs to book their place in the main draw.

"The (club's) doctor says there is no problem for Saturday," said Gomez on the Bayern website, ahead of the game at Kaiserslautern.

The Germany forward's health is of particular concern to Bayern after Croatia striker Olic picked up a hip injury last weekend and was ruled out for up to eight weeks.

Munich now have just two fit strikers in their squad in Gomez and Nils Petersen.

Bayern released a statement on Wednesday to say they will not bring in a new striker as cover, with the transfer window set to close at midnight on August 31.

"I have complete confidence in our existing squad," said coach Jupp Heynckes.

"In addition, our medical department is confident that Ivica Olic will return to the squad in the near future.

"All of us, the board, sporting director and coach, are confident that with our current team we can reach our goals for this season."

Robben was on the bench in Zurich after struggling with a back injury.

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Nasri relieved City transfer saga over



MANCHESTER (AFP) - Samir Nasri admits he was relieved to finally join Manchester City after the France star completed his long-awaited escape from Arsenal.

Nasri's £24 million switch to Eastlands was sealed on Wednesday after he passed a medical and he is likely to go straight into Roberto Mancini's squad for Sunday's Premier League match against Tottenham at White Hart Lane.

The 24-year-old had been made to wait several weeks to leave Arsenal as Gunners boss Arsene Wenger fought to hold onto him and the former Marseille star admitted he was frustrated that it took

so long.

City had been chasing Nasri for several months but the transfer looked as though it might stall when Mancini warned Wenger that he could pull out of the deal if Nasri featured in Wednesday's Champions League tie against Udinese as that would stop him playing for City in the competition.

However, Wenger had already reluctantly accepted that he had to sell an unsettled player with only one year left on his contract.

"It is a big relief. It was a long negotiation and discussion between the two clubs and now I am finally a City player. That is what I wanted from the start. I'm really happy," Nasri told City's website.

"I was a little bit frustrated because I said to the manager (Wenger) I wanted to leave. I stayed for the whole pre-season, but I wanted to do the pre-season with Manchester, so then I can know my teammates a little more.

Nasri had been the target for abuse from Arsenal fans angry at his decision to leave and he was quick to take the opportunity to claim City's supporters were far more passionate than the Gunners' faithful.



UNITED STATES, Bristol : BRISTOL, TN - AUGUST 24: Austin Dillon, driver of the #3 Bass Pro Shops/Tracker Chevrolet, drives during practice for the O'Reilly Auto Parts 200 at Bristol Motor Speedway on August 24, 2011 in Bristol, Tennessee. (AFP photo)

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Fenerbahce banned from Champions League

ISTANBUL (AFP) - Turkish league winners Fenerbahce were yesterday banned from the Champions League this season due to an ongoing match-fixing probe which has ensnared the first division club.

The decision, taken by the Turkish football federation, came just 24 hours before the draw for the group stage of the money-spinning tournament is staged.

They will be replaced in the tournament by Trabzonspor, last season's Turkish league runners-up, following a meeting of UEFA's emergency panel.

"Regarding the heavy disciplinary sanctions both Fenerbahce and the Turkish Football Federation (TFF), which means Turkey might encounter, it is decided to ban Fenerbahce Sports Club from the UEFA Champions' League this season," the TFF said in a statement posted on its website.

The decision was made after a warning by UEFA that either Fenerbahce should withdraw from the league or the TFF should ban the club to prevent UEFA starting its own disciplinary investigation, it said.

TFF decided to ban Fenerbahce, after the club refused to "make an important decision like that in this very

short time," it said.

The club in a statement posted on its website said the federation asked them to make the decision in less than a day.

After naming Trabzonspor as Fenerbahce's replacement, the UEFA emergency panel also decided that the Turkish league runners-up would be replaced in the Europa League by their opponents in the play-off, Athletic Bilbao.

Their play-off second-leg match, scheduled for Thursday, was therefore cancelled.

UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino said: "The panel considered that the Turkish Football Federation took the right decision to protect the game, fully in line with our zero-tolerance policy against match-fixing.

Last month, some 30 people were charged and jailed pending trial as part of a probe into match-fixing and bribery in Turkey's first and second divisions.

The president of Fenerbahce, Aziz Yildirim, is the most prominent among the incarcerated suspects, which include also the vice-president and the coach of another Istanbul giant, Besiktas.

The suspects are accused of manipulating 19 games last season, which saw Fenerbahce clinch the title in the last match, outstripping Trabzonspor on goal difference.

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Djokovic top US Open seed, Fish highest American

NEW YORK (AFP) - World number one and reigning Australian Open and Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic was confirmed on Wednesday as top seed in the men's singles at the US Open which starts on Monday.

Djokovic, a three-time Grand Slam champion, but who is seeking his first US Open title, is the No. 1 seed at the tournament for the first time.

He will be followed by No. 2 Rafael Nadal, the defending champion; No. 3 Roger Federer of Switzerland, a five-time US Open winner and No. 4 Andy Murray of Great Britain, the 2008 runner-up.

Djokovic holds a 57-2 record leading up to this year's US Open.

He has won nine titles this year, including five Masters events, along with his second Australian Open and first

Wimbledon titles.

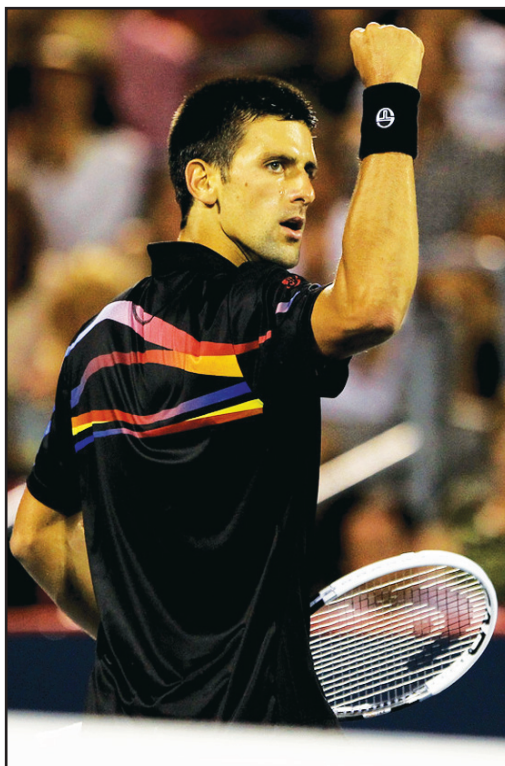
The Serbian is a two-time US Open runner-up, losing to Nadal last year and to Federer in 2007.

For the first time in his career, Mardy Fish will be the highest-seeded American at No. 8 with 2003 champion Andy Roddick seeded at 21.

SEEDS:

Men's singles

1. Novak Djokovic (SRB), 2. Rafael Nadal (ESP), 3. Roger Federer (SUI), 4. Andy Murray (GBR), 5. David Ferrer (ESP), 6. Robin Soderling (SWE), 7. Gael Monfils (FRA), 8. Mardy Fish (USA), 9. Tomas Berdych (CZE), 10. Nicolas Almagro (ESP), 11. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA), 12. Gilles Simon (FRA), 13. Richard



Gasquet (FRA), 14. Stanislas Wawrinka (SUI), 15. Viktor Troicki (SRB), 16. Mikhail

Youzhny (RUS), 17. Jürgen Melzer (AUT), 18. Juan Martin Del Potro (ARG), 19. Fernando Verdasco (ESP), 20. Janko Tipsarevic (SRB), 21. Andy Roddick (USA), 22. Alexandr Dolgoplov (UKR), 23. Radek Stepanek (CZE), 24. Juan Ignacio Chela (ARG), 25. Feliciano Lopez (ESP), 26. Florian Mayer (GER), 27. Marin Cilic (CRO), 28. John Isner (USA), 29. Michael Llodra (FRA), 30. Ivan Ljubicic (CRO), 31. Marcel Granollers (ESP), 32. Ivan Dodig (CRO)

Women's singles

1. Caroline Wozniacki (DEN), 2. Vera Zvonareva (RUS), 3. Maria Sharapova (RUS), 4. Victoria Azarenka (BLR), 5. Petra Kvitova (CZE), 6. Li Na

(CHN), 7. Francesca Schiavone (ITA), 8. Marion Bartoli (FRA), 9. Samantha Stosur (AUS), 10. Andrea Petkovic (GER), 11. Jelena Jankovic (SRB), 12. Agnieszka Radwanska (POL), 13. Peng Shuai (CHN), 14. Dominika Cibulkova (SVK), 15. Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUS), 16. Ana Ivanovic (SRB), 17. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUS), 18. Roberta Vinci (ITA), 19. Julia Goerges (GER), 20. Yanina Wickmayer (BEL), 21. Daniela Hantuchova (SVK), 22. Sabine Lisicki (GER), 23. Shahar Peer (ISR), 24. Nadia Petrova (RUS), 25. Maria Kirilenko (RUS), 26. Flavia Pennetta (ITA), 27. Lucie Safarova (CZE), 28. Serena Williams (USA), 29. Jarmila Gajdosova (AUS), 30. Anabel Medina Garrigues (ESP), 31. Kaia Kanepi (EST), 32. Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez (ESP).